

History and Services

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PREVIOUS HOUSING PROGRAMS

- Emergency Home Repair and Housing Rehabilitation
- Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control

CURRENT HOUSING PROGRAMS

- Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)
- Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)
- Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
- Housing Opportunity for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)

COCHISE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY LEGACY PROJECT

The Housing Authority of Cochise County “HACC” was established by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors in 1976 with collaboration of the incorporated areas in Cochise County.

The housing programs were administered by Planning and Zoning and the Health Departments before becoming an Independent Housing Authority in 2002. In this establishment, five Commissioners were appointed by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors, to include a non-voting participant liaison.

The Housing Authority proudly became a Cochise County Department once again in October 2016.

In 2007, the Housing Authority entered into an agreement with the Arizona Department of Housing to administer their Section 8 Vouchers in Graham County where 23 families continue to be served.

Today the Cochise County Housing Authority (formerly HACC) provides tenant-based rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Section 8, HUD-VASH, Family Self-Sufficiency

and HOPWA Programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- Serving 507 families
- 381 children 18 years and younger, average age is 9
- Nearly 72% female heads of household and 29 % male heads of households
- 34 couples and 473 single family households
- 46% Social Security
- 14% Social Security Income (SSDI/SSI)
- 23 graduates from the family Self-Sufficiency Program

HISTORY AND SERVICES

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER SECTION 8

This is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market. Since housing assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

The participant is free to choose any housing that meets the requirements of the program and is not limited to units located in subsidized housing projects.

Housing Choice Vouchers are administered locally by the Housing Authority, federally funded from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

A family that is issued the housing voucher is responsible for finding a suitable housing unit of the family's choice where the owner agrees to rent under the program. This unit may include the family's present residence. Rental units must meet minimum standards of health and safety, as determined by the PHA.

A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by the PHA on behalf of the participating family. The family then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

This is a program that enables HUD-assisted families to increase their earned income and reduced their dependence on welfare assistance and rental subsidies. The Housing Authority works in collaboration with a Program Coordinating Committee to secure commitment of public and private resources for the operation of the FSS program to develop the FSS Action Plan and implement the program.

Once an eligible family is selected to participate in the program, the Housing Authority and the head of each participating family execute an FSS Contract of Participation that specifies the rights and responsibilities of both parties. The term of the contract is 5 years, but it may be extended for another 2 years for good cause.

The FSS contract also incorporates the family's individual training and services plan, documenting intermediate and long-term goals.

HUD - VASH

This program combines Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for homeless Veterans with Case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA provides these services for participants at VA medical centers and community-based outreach clinics.

Generally, this program is administered in accordance with the HCV program requirements. However, HUD allows specific requirements to be waived for any provision of statute or regulation affecting the HCV program in order to effectively deliver and administer the voucher assistance.

HOPWA

This is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Stable housing allows persons with HIV/AIDS to access comprehensive healthcare and adhere to complex drug therapies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than one million Americans are living with HIV/AIDS. Throughout many communities, persons living with HIV/AIDS risk losing their housing due to compounding factors such as increased medical costs and limited incomes or reduced ability to keep working due to related illnesses. This program is dedicated to addressing these housing needs through Tenant-Based rental assistance and Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance. Referrals come through collaboration with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation.

HOUSING TEAM

ANITA BACA DIRECTOR

I have been with the Housing Authority since May 2009. I grew up in Bisbee and though I left for a period of time, moved back in 2004 to the community I know and love. It was then my career took a different path, and I began working with the homeless and low-income, later expanding to housing. It is my distinct honor to work alongside the people I do and lend a hand to those we serve. It is my hope to continue working for Cochise County until retirement and remain in Bisbee. Though it's hard to pinpoint my favorite "Housing" moment, I would have to say it was during a Housing Quality Standards Inspection for a participant on our program for persons living with HIV/AIDS. He told me that he was homeless for twelve years and near death, without medical care. Through our HOPWA Program and collaboration with the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation, this man is now living in a beautiful home and is receiving the treatment and medical care he needs. He has stable income and is very healthy. Moments like this are why I love what I do.



MARIELA MALDONADO HOUSING SPECIALIST



Mariela has worked for the Housing Authority for 15 years. She's worn many hats in the department. From starting off as a Secretary II to conducting inspections out in the field, to becoming Supervisor and overseeing the HCV, FSS and HOPWA programs. Her passion is helping others. Knowing that her work and dedication has helped many have a decent, safe and sanitary home has been her greatest accomplishment.

KAYLA MUÑOZ HOUSING ASSISTANT

Kayla joined the Housing Authority of Cochise County in 2007, as a temporary employee. In 2010, she became a full time employee with the Housing Authority as the Housing Assistant and still holds this position. She has her Associates Degree in General Studies and will be obtaining another Associates Degree in AAEE and will continue on to the U of A to get her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She has a 3 ½ year old daughter named Jaylah that she absolutely adores. She loves spending time with family and friends. A favorite memory she has working in this department is seeing people smile once they receive their Section 8 Voucher to go look for a home. "Their smiles just melt my heart because you can tell they appreciate this help very much" said Kayla.



**CLAUDIA MORALES
OUTREACH COORDINATOR**



I was hired with The Housing Authority of Cochise County back in December of 2001. I started as a Clerk and since then have had the opportunity to promote to several positions. My current position is Housing Coordinator. It brings me great pleasure to serve the population that we do. Providing a home to a family in need is extremely rewarding and that is why I love what I do. My favorite moment is definitely our yearly “angel tree” gift donations to the children on our Family Self-Sufficiency program. I had the pleasure of donating gifts last year and it just filled my heart with joy aside from work duties I enjoy spending time with my family. I am a proud parent of 3 amazing Daughters and a Step-Son who inspire me every day.

**EDELINA DURON
FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY
COORDINATOR**

Edelina joined the Housing Authority Department in August 2016 and had 4 years of previous County Service with the Sheriffs Department, Detention Division. Edelina brings 16 years of Social Service experience from the State of Arizona, DES-Family Assistance Administration. Edelina is currently working on her Bachelor’s Degree through the University of Arizona. Edelina firmly believes, “It is never too late to return back to school and pursue your dreams!”

Edelina was born and raised in Douglas, Arizona, but has lived in Tucson, Bisbee, Sierra Vista, and Hereford. Edelina graduated from Pueblo High School in Tucson, Arizona and continues to firmly believe in the School Moto to this day! “Si Se Puede!”

Edelina believes that each position she has held in her career, have helped pave the way to the current position held as Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator. Her passion is to help people in need and be a proactive person to the people she serves.

Some of the services that Edelina coordinates through the Housing Authority and community resources include: Child Care, Transportation, Education, Job Training, Employment Counseling, Financial Literacy, and Homeownership Counseling, among others. Edelina contracts with housing participants for a 5 year period and incorporates the family’s individual training and services plan to assist in achieving intermediate and long-term goals, in order to achieve self-sufficiency.



Special Thanks to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

R. Keith Newlon, 2003 to 2016

Jennifer “Ginger” Ryan, 2004 to 2016

Melissa Herrera-DiPeso, 2006 to 2016

Kathleen Calabrese, 2007 to 2016



Cochise County Housing Authority
1415 Melody Lane
Building A, Suite 100
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

Phone: 520-432-8880
Fax: 520-432-8890
cochise.az.gov

Public Programs...Personal Service

Mission: Expand affordable housing options, promote homeownership and improve the quality of housing in Cochise County.

The PHA's mission is to provide safe, decent and sanitary housing conditions for low income families and to manage resources efficiently . The PHA is to promote personal economic and social upward mobility to provide families the opportunity to make a transition from subsidized to non-subsidized housing.

Although Edelina joined our team in August, she was unavailable for our group photo. She has already proven to be an integral part of Housing. We look forward to the years to come.

